

supporting a leg cradle;

a clamping device for mounting [the] a proximate end of said support device to a mounting device having a first axis transverse to said longitudinal axis and selectively simultaneously clamping and releasing motion of said support device about said first axis and about a second axis transverse to both said first axis and said longitudinal axis, said support device fixed in said clamping device from rotation about said longitudinal axis;

an actuator device for actuating said clamping device to simultaneously selectively clamp and release[, simultaneously,] said support device and said mounting device; and

an operator device remote from said clamping device and said actuator device for operating said actuator device to enable said support device to move [simultaneously] jointly about both said first and said second axes in the abduction and lithotomy dimensions[; and]_.

~~Claim 12, line 2, please replace "the axis", with --~~
said longitudinal axis--.

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Klevstad.

Because Klevstad does not teach an actuator that simultaneously selectively clamps and releases to enable a support device to move jointly about a first and second axes that are transverse to each other and to the longitudinal axis of the support device and because Klevstad does not teach a support device that is fixed from rotation about its own longitudinal axis, Klevstad does not anticipate applicant's claimed invention.

The applicant's claimed invention recites a leg holder system for simultaneous positioning in the abduction (horizontal) and lithotomy (vertical) dimensions having a support device with a longitudinal axis (80) for supporting a leg cradle, a clamping device for mounting the proximate end of the support device to a mounting device having a first axis (36) transverse to the longitudinal axis and simultaneously clamping or releasing the motion of the support device about a second axis (72) which is transverse to both the first and longitudinal axes, the support device being fixed from rotation about its longitudinal axis.

An actuator device actuates the clamping device to simultaneously, selectively clamp and release jointly, simultaneously the support device and the mounting device.

An operator device, remote from the clamping device and actuator device, operates the actuator device to enable the support device to move jointly about both the first and

second axes in the abduction and lithotomy dimensions.

Thus, the applicant's claimed invention enables the support device to be moved simultaneously about both the horizontal and vertical axes in a single, fluid motion by a single actuator. This not only allows the motion of the support device to closely mimic the natural motion of the hip and more comfortably accommodate the patient, but further allows the attendant or doctor to quickly, efficiently and effortlessly adjust the patient's legs to permit the doctor access to the patient without entering the sterile area.

In contrast, Klevstad teaches an actuator device (43) which allows rotational movement of a support device about its own longitudinal axis and rotation about a second, horizontal axis (e.g. pin 36) transverse to the longitudinal axis to enable vertical movement of the support device. However, in order for Klevstad to further allow the support device to move horizontally about a vertical axis (e.g. vertical shaft 32) transverse to both the longitudinal and second axes, Klevstad requires adjustment of a second actuator (locking pin 34).

Klevstad does not teach an actuator device that simultaneously selectively clamps and releases the support device and the mounting device to allow movement of the support device jointly about first and second axes transverse to the longitudinal axis of the support device and to each other.

The actuator of Klevstad allows movement of the support device about a first axis, allowing vertical movement, and about a its own longitudinal axis.

In stark contrast, the applicant claims, as amended, a support device which is fixed from rotation about its longitudinal axis by a fixed or force fit within the mounting device. See page 9, lines 12-13.

Klevstad does not teach a single actuator which simultaneously releases the support device to move about first and second axes which are transverse to each other and to the longitudinal axis of the support device.

The actuator (43) of Klevstad only releases the support device to allow movement about pin 36 and about the longitudinal axis (39) of the support device. In order to enable movement about a second axis transverse to the first axis and the longitudinal axis of the support device, locking bolt 34 must also be adjusted.

Thus, Klevstad requires the adjustment of two actuators in order to allow movement about two axes transverse to each other and to the longitudinal axis of the support device.

In stark contrast, the applicant claims a single actuator which simultaneously clamps or releases the mounting device and the support device, fixed from rotation about its longitudinal axis within the mounting device, to enable the support device to move jointly about both the first and second axes.

Accordingly, the applicant's claimed invention is not

anticipated by Klevstad and thus claim 1, as amended, is allowable.

Claims 4, 7 and 12 depend from claim 1, an allowable claim and are therefore also allowable.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 112.

The examiner states that there is no antecedent basis for "the abduction and lithotomy dimensions", lines 1-2, "the proximate end", line 4, and "said clamp", line 8 of claim 1.

In response, the applicant has ammended claim 1.

The examiner states that "the axis of said support means", claim 12 also lacks proper antecedent basis.

In response, the applicant has amended claim 12.

Finally, the examiner states that it is unclear exactly what structure supports the selective clamping and releasing motion.

However, the applicant directs the examiner to page 10, lines 12-21:

"Thus with one action, the rotation of handle 18 about axis 80, the clamp releases its grip to allow rotation about both axis 36 and axis 72 to provide simultaneous repositioning in the abduction and lithotomy dimensions. When the handle is released the force of Belleville washers 66 and 68 back-rotate the eccentric, snapping the handle to the normal position and allowing the Belleville washer to reinstate the clamping force on both axes."

Thus, the structure is clearly identified at page 10.

Accordingly, claims 1-13 are allowable.

Each of Examiner's rejections has been addressed or

traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associate, Joseph S. Iandiorio, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kirk Teska', written over a horizontal line.

Kirk Teska
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